

Washington, DC- Congressman Harry Teague announced today that Western New Mexico University will receive \$249,740 in federal funding for a Nurse Education Practice and Retention program. The grant, allocated by the Department of Health and Human Services, will be put toward expanding the University's existing Registered Nurse degree to a Bachelors of Science in Nursing. Additionally, all nursing classes will be available to students as online courses with new integrated audio and visual conferencing technology.

"Nurses are the backbone of our health system," said Congressman Harry Teague. "Western New Mexico University's efforts to expand and innovate their nursing program are an important step in tackling our nationwide nursing shortage."

The grant provides funding for three years, running through June of 2012.